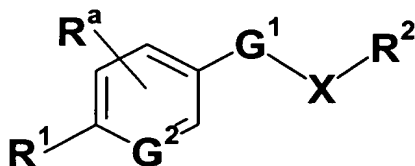


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An arylamidine derivative or a salt thereof represented by the following general formula:



wherein X represents an unsubstituted or substituted lower alkylene or alkenylene group;

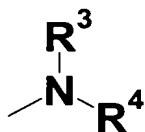
G¹ represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, or an imino group;

G² represents a carbon atom or a nitrogen atom;

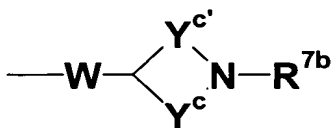
R^a represents at least one group selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, and unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl and alkoxy groups;

R¹ represents an unprotected or protected or unsubstituted or substituted amidino group; and

R² represents a group represented ~~by~~ by the following formula (1), (2) or (3):
formula (1)



wherein R³ represents a hydrogen atom, an amino protecting group, an unsubstituted or substituted cycloalkyl or alkenyl group, or a group represented by the following formula:

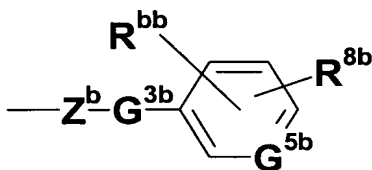


wherein W represents an unsubstituted or substituted lower alkylene group or a direct bond;

Y^c represents an unsubstituted or substituted C_{2-4} lower alkylene group;

$Y^{c'}$ represents an unsubstituted or substituted C_{1-4} lower alkylene group; and

R^{7b} represents a hydrogen atom, an amino protecting group, or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl or alkenyl group, or a group represented by the following formula:



wherein Z^b represents an unsubstituted or substituted lower alkylene or alkenylene group;

G^{3b} represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, an imino group, or a direct bond;

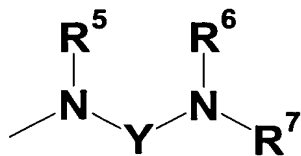
G^{5b} represents a carbon atom or a nitrogen atom;

R^{bb} represents at least one group selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, and unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl and alkoxy groups; and

R^{8b} represents an unprotected or protected or unsubstituted or substituted amidino group which is bonded at the para or meta position of the position connected to G^{3b} ; and or

R^4 represents a hydrogen atom, an amino protecting group, or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl or alkenyl group;

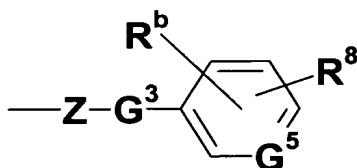
formula (2)



wherein Y represents an unsubstituted or substituted C₂₋₆ lower alkylene or C₃₋₆ alkenylene group;

~~each of R⁵ and R⁶, which may be the same or different,~~ independently represents a hydrogen atom, an amino protecting group, or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl or alkenyl group; and

R⁷ represents a hydrogen atom, an amino protecting group, or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl or alkenyl group, or a group represented by the following formula:



wherein Z represents an unsubstituted or substituted lower alkylene or alkenylene group;

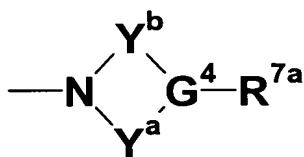
G³ represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, an imino group, or a direct bond;

G⁵ represents a carbon atom or a nitrogen atom;

R^b represents at least one group selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom and unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl and alkoxy groups; and

R⁸ represents an unprotected or protected or unsubstituted or substituted amidino group which is bonded at the para or meta position of the position connected to G³; or

formula (3)



wherein Y^a represents an unsubstituted or substituted C₂₋₄ lower alkylene group; and

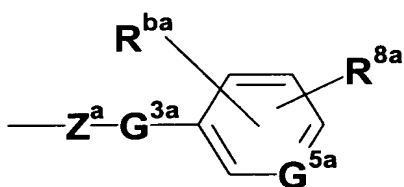
Y^b represents an unsubstituted or substituted C_{1-4} lower alkylene group;

G^4 represents a carbon atom or a nitrogen atom;

R^{7a} represents an alkyl group substituted by at least one group selected from the group consisting of a cyano group, a nitro group, a halogen atom, a sulfo group, a phosphoryl group, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, an unprotected or protected carbamoyl group, an unprotected or protected hydroxycarbamoyl group, an unprotected or protected aminosulfonyl group, an unprotected or protected cyclic amino group, an unprotected or protected lower alkylamino group, a lower alkenyl group, a lower alkoxy group, a heterocyclic group, a cycloalkyl group, a lower alkylidene group, a mercapto group, an amidinophenylaryloxy group, an aryloxy group, a lower alkylthio group, a lower alkylsulfinyl group, a lower alkylsulfonyl group, a lower alkylcarbamoyl group, a lower alkylsulfonylamino group, a lower alkylaminosulfonyl group, a carboxyl lower alkenyl group, a hydroxyl heterocyclic group, a lower alkyl heterocyclic group, a lower alkoxy-lower alkoxy group, and a lower alkoxyimino group,

or an unsubstituted or substituted phenyl, cycloalkyl or alkenyl group,

or a group represented by the following formula:



wherein Z^a represents an unsubstituted or substituted lower alkylene or alkenylene group;

G^{3a} represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, an imino group, or a direct bond;

G^{5a} represents a carbon atom or a nitrogen atom;

R^{ba} represents at least one group selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, and unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl and alkoxy groups; and

R^{8a} represents an unprotected or protected or unsubstituted or substituted amidino group which is bonded at the para or meta position of the position connected to G^{3a} ~~(provided that where~~

wherein G^1 represents an imino group,

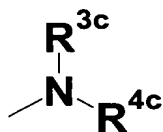
X represents an unsubstituted or substituted C_{3-6} lower alkylene group, or an unsubstituted or substituted alkenylene group. ~~group).~~

Claim 2 (Original): The arylamidine derivative or a salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein G^1 represents an oxygen atom; G^2 represents a carbon atom; and R^a represents at least one group selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom and a halogen atom.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The arylamidine derivative or a salt thereof according to claim 1, ~~claim 1 or 2~~, wherein R^a represents a hydrogen atom.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The arylamidine derivative or a salt thereof according to claim 1, ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein R^2 represents a group represented by the following formula (1), (2) or (3):

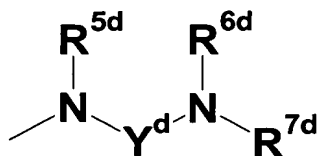
formula (1)



wherein R^{3c} represents a hydrogen atom, an amino protecting group, or an unsubstituted or substituted cycloalkyl or alkenyl group; and

R^{4c} represents a hydrogen atom, an amino protecting group, or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl or alkenyl ~~group; group;~~

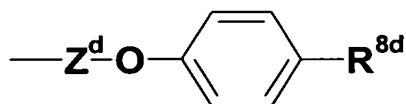
formula (2)



wherein Y^d represents an unsubstituted or substituted C_{2-6} lower alkylene or C_{3-6} alkenylene group; ~~each of~~

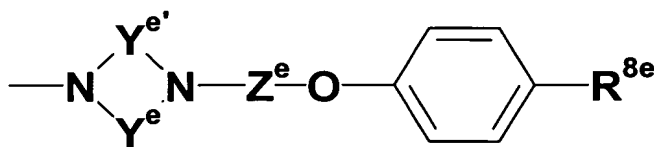
R^{5d} and R^{6d} , ~~which may be the same or different,~~ independently represents a hydrogen atom, an amino protecting group, or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl or alkenyl group; and

R^{7d} represents a hydrogen atom, an amino protecting group, or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl or alkenyl group, or a group represented by the following formula:



wherein Z^d represents an unsubstituted or substituted lower alkylene or alkenylene group, R^{8d} represents an unprotected or protected or an unsubstituted or substituted amidino group, or

formula (3)



wherein ~~each of~~ Y^e and $Y^{e'}$, ~~which may be the same or different,~~ independently represents an unsubstituted or substituted C_{2-4} lower alkylene group;

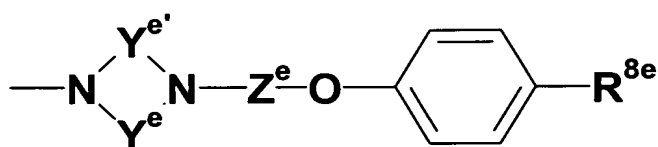
Z^e represents an unsubstituted or substituted lower alkylene or alkenylene group; and

R^{8e} represents an unprotected or protected or unsubstituted or substituted amidino group.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The arylamidine derivative or a salt thereof according to claim 1, ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~,

wherein X represents an unsubstituted or substituted lower alkylene group,

R² represents a group represented by the following formula:



wherein ~~each of Y^e and Y^{e'}, which may be the same or different~~, independently represents an unsubstituted or substituted C₂₋₄ lower alkylene group;

Z^e represents an unsubstituted or substituted lower alkylene or alkenylene group; and

R^{8e} represents an unprotected or protected or unsubstituted or substituted amidino group.

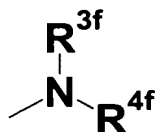
Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The arylamidine derivative or a salt thereof according to claim 1, ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~,

wherein X represents an unsubstituted or substituted lower alkylene group;

R^a represents a hydrogen atom; and

R² represents a group represented by ~~the following formula (1), (2) or (3):~~

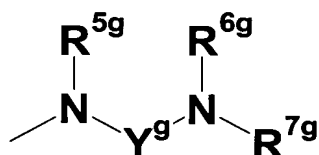
formula (1)



wherein R^{3f} represents a hydrogen atom, an amino protecting group, or an unsubstituted or substituted cycloalkyl or alkenyl group; and

R^{4f} represents a hydrogen atom, an amino protecting group, or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl or alkenyl group,

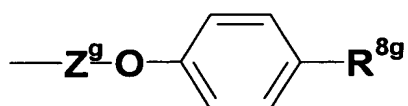
formula (2)



wherein Y^g represents an unsubstituted or substituted C_{2-6} lower alkylene or C_{3-6} alkenylene group; each of

R^{5g} and R^{6g} , ~~which may be the same or different,~~ independently represents a hydrogen atom, an amino protecting group, an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl or alkenyl group; and

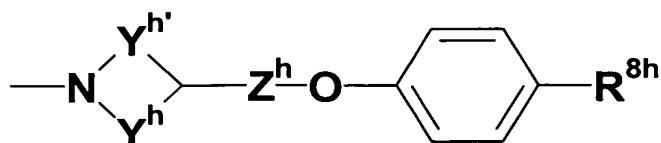
R^{7g} represents a hydrogen atom, an amino protecting group, or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl or alkenyl group, or a group represented by the following formula:



wherein Z^g represents an unsubstituted or substituted lower alkylene or alkenylene group,

R^{8g} represents an unprotected or protected or an unsubstituted or substituted amidino group, group; or

formula (3)



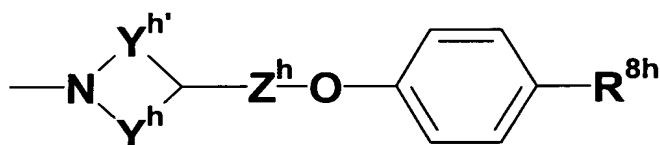
wherein ~~each~~ of Y^h and $Y^{h'}$, ~~which may be the same or different,~~ independently represents an unsubstituted or substituted C_{2-4} lower alkylene group;

Z^h represents an unsubstituted or substituted lower alkylene or alkenylene group; and

R^{8h} represents an unprotected or protected or unsubstituted or substituted amidino group.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The arylamidine derivative or a salt thereof according to claim 1, ~~any one of claims 1 to 3 and 6~~;

wherein R^2 represents a group represented by the following formula:



wherein ~~each~~ of Y^h and $Y^{h'}$, ~~which may be the same or different,~~ independently represents an unsubstituted or substituted C_{2-4} lower alkylene group;

Z^h represents an unsubstituted or substituted lower alkylene or alkenylene group; and

R^{8h} represents an unprotected or protected or unsubstituted or substituted amidino group.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The arylamidine derivative or a salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein the arylamidine derivative is 4-{3-[4-(3-{4-[amino(imino)methyl]phenoxy}propyl)-1-piperazinyl]propoxy}benzamidine. ~~benzamidine or a salt thereof.~~

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The arylamidine derivative or a salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein the arylamidine derivative is 4-{2-[1-(3-{4-

[amino(imino)methyl]phenoxy}propyl)-4-piperidinyl]ethoxy}benzamidine. ~~benzamidine or a salt thereof.~~

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): An antifungal agent comprising, as an active ingredient, the arylamidinederivative ~~a compound~~ or a salt thereof according to claim 1. ~~any one of claims 1 to 9.~~